

Dear Sir/Madam:I checked my email on this morning, and my day turned horrible as soon as I read a letter from XM Radio. I cannot believe that the government is attempting to block XM/Satellite radio from broadcasting traffic and weather reports. This is definitely government gone terribly wrong.

First of all, I'm irate that my tax dollars are being spent and representatives and senators time is being wasted on the discussion of HR 4026. What is wrong with XM Radio providing special programs to its subscribers. I have been a subscriber for 1 year and I absolutely love it. I live in an area that has very poor music selections on regular radio. I only can hear top-40 and country. With XM radio, I can listen to national broadcasts of every genre of music, talk radio, sports radio, news, and different types of culture specific radio. In fact, I liked it so much that my Christmas present to my fiance' was XM radio for her car and apartment. Does the government have the right, now that XM radio is available, to take that away from me and my fiance'?

When XM Radio announced that there would be a special traffic channel for Minneapolis, MN, I was overjoyed. Even though the station is not yet available, I already have the preset set for that channel in my vehicle. I drive to Minneapolis 1 or 2 times a month. The local radio stations only present traffic reports on the hour and they are totally incomplete. So, now the government wants to force XM radio to remove a better product because the NAB knows it cannot compete? That is truly un-American. The 2 representatives (Charles Pickering and Gene Green) should be absolutely ashamed to even have considered this.

Finally, how is XM Radio different than Satellite TV or cable TV? Can you imagine how different our life would be if the government did not allow cable TV to come into existence? The government has tried to help out the cable companies by not allowing Satellite TV to offer the local networks, but even that has started to change because the people have spoken. Radio has had nearly a century to evolve and provide what XM radio is providing. They have failed. America is about ingenuity and change. XM provides that in the radio listening and services department. Now that it is available, please do not take that away from us subscribers. We and XM have done nothing wrong. We pay for these services, and now the government wants to take them away because the NAB is scared.

I am definitely keeping track of how my congressmen from Minnesota vote for this. Whether Democrat or Republican, if they vote to silence Satellite Radio, I will vote against them without hesitation in the next elections.

Thanks and please do the right thing.
Kevin Kirkeby